



## Red Rider LP shows Tom Cochrane's emotions

Tom Cochrane and Red Rider  
*Victory Day*  
Capitol/EMI

by Scott Gordon

This is the sixth record by Canadian Tom Cochrane and Red Rider and is sure to go the same platinum road as the previous five. *Victory Day* has everything to ensure that this happens; impeccable production courtesy of Don Gehman (John Cougar Mellen-camp, REM), tight performance, even tighter lyrics, and emotion.

Of course, because of Gehman's past production duties, this album does sound a bit like the rural American rock that seems to be so popular these days in MOR circles. The guitars are up front, followed by the bass, and the drums have an insistent and incessant quality about them. But even with lush production, the songs themselves would stand out as Cochrane's own and not as some A&R reps' idea of

what the market wants, the market gets.

There is a real desperate emotion on "Calling America" as Cochrane's characters wonder what happened to the American Dream of freedom and justice, only to discover that it's all a lie. "Big League" is about the ambition and desires of hockey fathers who push their sons to the limit in pursuit of glory. The son dies, however, and we are reminded of the importance of emotion and feeling.

It is emotion, feeling and human beings that are Tom Cochrane's subjects. All the songs reflect this and all are connected by this, just as the previous five albums were. Thus *Victory Day* is another chapter in Cochrane's book of music and life. It is also another platinum record waiting for a wall to hand on.

It should be interesting to see his show with the ESO on March 17 and 18, and if his emotions can come through over a symphony. Procol Harum did it years ago and it worked. Cochrane should be as successful.

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